

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

FEBRUARY 26, 1861.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. THOMSON made the following

REPORT.

(To accompany bill S. 570.)

*The Committee on Pensions to whom was referred the petition of Ann Eliza Platt, widow of the late Commandant Charles T. Platt, United States Navy, have had the same under consideration, and report:*

That Commander Platt was a brave and faithful officer of the United States Navy, which he entered in the month of June, 1812. His first service was in the flotilla on Lake Champlain, and he was aid to Commodore McDonough in the memorable battle of the 11th of September, 1814, which resulted so gloriously for the arms of our country. His conspicuous gallantry on that occasion elicited a favorable notice in the dispatches of the commodore giving an account of the battle.

He subsequently served in different vessels, and took part in dangerous expeditions against the pirates that infested the West India Islands, and always with credit to himself and advantage to his country.

It appears from the testimony before the committee, that on the 4th day of June, 1829, whilst serving as lieutenant on board the steamship Fulton, then lying off the navy-yard at Brooklyn, the magazine of the vessel exploded, and he sustained injuries therefrom, from which he never recovered.

Dr. Tinslar, surgeon United States Navy, certifies that he "was in attendance upon Lieutenant Platt, immediately after the explosion of the magazine of the United States ship Fulton, in June, 1829, and that said Platt received a severe concussion of the brain, a compound and comminuted fracture of the right upper jaw, a contusion of the testes and other parts of the body; and he further certifies, that upon a recent examination of him, he found him afflicted with a scirrhus of the right testicle and a morbid condition of the scrotum, and from their character and nature he is decidedly of opinion that this condition of the parts had its origin in the injuries received at the explosion of the United States steam frigate Fulton."

Surgeon Reynolds, of the United States Navy, also testifies to the "painful induration and enlargement of the right testicle, which he has no doubt was the result of contusion of the parts, received from the explosion of the magazine of the Fulton."

Doctors Bay and Moore, Horace Nelson and J. P. Foot, physicians and surgeons of the village of Plattsburg, found him laboring under a cancerous affection of the right testicle and hydrocele of the left half of the scrotum. They state, that "these affections are, from their character and nature, of distant origin and slow progress, and are no doubt to be attributed, from the history of the case, to injuries received at the explosion of the steam frigate Fulton, in 1829."

Charles Dunham, M. D., of the village of Newburg, State of New York, swears that he attended, professionally, Commander Platt, in November, 1860, and found him suffering from a chronic scirrhus of the testicle, and from a cancerous state of the base of the bladder; and that he considered these diseases to have resulted directly from injuries received while on duty on board the United States frigate Fulton, at the time of her explosion in 1829; and that he "considers his death, which occurred on the 12th day of December, 1860, to have been caused by the injuries received while on duty as above mentioned."

From the above testimony, the committee cannot doubt that the diseases of which he died were caused by injuries received whilst in the line of his duty, and that his widow is entitled to such a pension as is provided in such cases under existing laws.

The committee therefore report a bill for that purpose.